

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are cancelled. Claims 13-24 are now present in this application, with new claims 13-24 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. It should be noted that the replacement of 1-12 with claims 13-24 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, amendments have been made to broaden the claims; remove reference numerals in the claims; remove the European phrase “characterized in that”; remove multiple dependencies in the claims; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. form, including the use of the transitional phrase “comprising” as well as the phrase “wherein”. Again, all amendments are non-narrowing and have been made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 13-24 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C

By: _____

John A. Castellano , Reg. No. 35,094

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC/smk